Swipe Right on JSTOR
Modeling Online and Speed Dating Methodologies to Match Students with Library Databases

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400 students
35 countries
Westmont College

- 1,300 students
- 25 countries
Teaching Library Databases

❖ Traditional show-and-tell
❖ Flipped
❖ Think, pair, share
❖ Small group presentations
❖ Let’s make a deal

… but still nothing really grabbed their attention
SpeedDating™

❖ Structured way to meet lots of people in a short time
❖ Created in the 1990s by a rabbi
❖ Includes movement and short spurts of interaction toward a goal – finding a match
❖ Fun and low stakes
Speed Databasing

- Structured way to introduce many databases in a short time
- Created in 2016 by two librarians – Jill & TMac
- Includes movement and multiple search sprints toward a goal – finding articles about a paper topic
- Fun, fast-paced, and memorable
Created and first delivered at CMU-Q
Fall 2016

Delivered at CMU-Q & Pittsburgh
Spring 2017

Presented at LOEX in Lexington, KY
May 2017

Delivered at Westmont College
Fall 2017

Presented at LILAC in Liverpool, England
April 2018

Presented today at LIW in Grand Junction, CO
July 2018
Hosting a Speed Databasing Event

❖ Invite a variety of databases

❖ Place a personals ad for each database
Example Personals Ad

**Name:** Google Scholar

**Age:** Let’s just say I’m not as old as I look (11!)

**Occupation:** A simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature

**Physical description:** Articles, theses, books, abstracts, and court opinions from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities, and other websites

**Weakness:** Citation counts can be manipulated and fake articles can be created and indexed

**My ideal vacation:** Google HQ in Zurich

**Interests:** Any topic under the sun

**My “secret” talent:** Ability to see all the times a particular article is cited in other articles, called “cited by”

**My best quality:** Search me

**My ideal date:** Racing down the slides or riding bikes inside Googleplex

**What’s in it for you:** You can locate any complete document through your library or on the web
Example Personals Ad

Frost & Sullivan

Name: Frost & Sullivan

Age: More than 50 years of experience in global consulting and market research

Location: 45 offices worldwide – on every continent except Antarctica

Background: More than 1,800 analysts tracking 1,000+ emerging technologies across 15 industry sectors

Physical description: Tens of thousands of market research reports, with new reports released daily

Interests: Trends, SWOT analyses, and emerging technologies

You'd be surprised to know: Most of my reports have easy to decipher charts and infographics.

My ideal dinner guest: The CEOs of Fortune 500 companies because we are already close friends

In search of: Flying car manufacturers – I have identified flying personal transportation as a top 2018 trend to watch. Look out for flying taxis in Dubai!
Example Personals Ad

**Name:** Bridgeman Education

**Age:** Pre-historic to post-modern

**Location:** Art museums, galleries, and private collections all over the world

**Background:** I’m a mix of a little bit of everything—photography, paintings, 3D objects, illustrations, graphic design, posters and more.

**Physical description:** Over 1.2 million color and b/w images representing art, history, and culture

**Interests:** I love old stuff! Vintage fashion and accessories, textiles, posters, Asian artifacts, furniture

**You’d be surprised to know:** All my images have been copyright cleared for educational use!

**My ideal dinner guests:** Queen Victoria and Charles & Ray Eames

**Favorite vacation:** Shopping the dusty antique stores of Europe

**In search of:** Someone to add to the slideshow of my life
Hosting a Speed Databasing Event cont.

❖ Invite a variety of databases
❖ Place a personals ad for each database
❖ Create a mood
❖ Share wisdom
❖ Set the ground rules
❖ Give a little push
Getting to Know a Database

❖ How would this database meet your research needs?
❖ How would this database be useful for your major?
❖ What are some ways that you can limit/narrow results?
❖ What are some of the database’s special features/tools?
❖ To whom would you recommend this database?
❖ Is this database easy or difficult to use?
❖ What do you like or dislike about this database?
The First Date (and second, third, fourth …)

❖ At the bell, students have 3-5 minutes to review profiles, search in the databases, and take notes

❖ At the next bell, students have a minute to wrap up, then move on to the next database

❖ The process repeats until the end of class

❖ Students complete a follow-up homework assignment *(optional)*:
  - Answer questions about a favorite database
  - Create an original profile for another database *(one they did not meet during class)*
First Impressions

statista

- Good for my major
- in statistics by industry

HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS

- Can easily limit results by historical

Art & Architecture Source

- Not very useful but interesting
- Use can be compared to that of PsycInfo
- Different languages pop up
- Study of work/role of diff. artist/architects
Student Database Profiles

Name: Access Science

Age: Age is just a number

Location: No matter where you are, whether it's a quarter-mile away or halfway around the world, you'll always be with me and you'll always be my researcher

Religion: Nope, database of science

Physical description: Don't want to show off but super big like 8,500 articles and research reviews big, with a nice 115,000+ definitions. Don't get me started about the 3,000 biographies and the 18,000+ images

Interests: In my database, I cover all major scientific disciplines with high quality

My ideal dinner guest: Galileo Galilei

Favorite vacation: The Hale Telescope at the Palomar Observatory in San Diego, Calif.

My secret talent: Curriculum maps and mobile access

Dream job: President of science
Student Database Profiles

Name: Accounting, Tax & Banking

Location: America – as most taxes listed are based in America

My secret talent: My special talent is I filter everything for you, and if you want (by clicking under the search bar) I let you check full text and if you want the ones with peer review

My favorite hobby: Tax auditing and going over information

My favorite vacation spot: Washington, D.C., United States, where the main location for the IRS is

My ideal dinner guest: Martha Stewart because she would bring me some of her delicious home cooked meals; she would also be included in this database as someone who lied about their taxes and got caught

In search of: Business students and tax auditors
Student Database Profiles

**Name:** PhilPapers

**Age:** Very Old, contains tonnes of historical documents

**Location:** Everywhere

**Education:** Been around the world studying

**Physical description:** Contains journals, books, research paper on a wide variety of topics

**Interests:** Life

**You’d be surprised to know:** I speak 40 languages

**My ideal dinner guest:** Immanuel Kant

**In search of:** A person who gets getting me (epistemology!!)
Let’s Play a Round of Speed Databasing! (Analog)

- Tables will be given several envelopes each containing a database profile and screen shots.
- At the bell, open the envelope in front of you, read the profile, and review the screen shots.
- On the handout, in the space for the given database, note your first impressions (keep this handout).
- At the next bell, hand your packet/envelope to the person on your right, take the packet/envelope from the person on your left.
- Repeat until the round ends.
What Do You Think?

❖ Take a few minutes to discuss the activity with your tablemates

➢ What did you like or dislike about the activity?

➢ How might you adapt it for your library?
Lessons Learned

❖ Offer a selection of databases to satisfy all majors and interests

❖ Depending on backgrounds and experience of participants, opt for a different name
  ➢ Database Matchmaking
  ➢ Database Roulette
  ➢ Research Database Round Robin

❖ Tailor the handout to learning objectives

❖ Assess the activity using a variety of options
Lessons Learned cont.

❖ Five minutes is the ideal amount of time to read the profile and explore the database

❖ Allow time in between the switch to take notes, reset the machines, stretch, etc.

❖ Stow backpacks, bags, coats, etc. on the side of the room to avoid trip hazards

❖ Rather than moving people, have them remain at one station but switch databases at the bell

❖ Play ambient music
Lessons Learned cont.

❖ Provide example searches to spur imagination, but do not ask them to answer specific questions

❖ Activity can be adapted for different types of instruction sessions

❖ Speed Databasing is not just for students, it can be used with library staff and faculty, too

❖ Database profiles make great posters, handouts, bookmarks, LibGuides, or social media posts
Disclaimers

❖ Speed Databasing enhances instruction – *but does not replace it*

❖ Students still need to learn the anatomy of a database before participating in this activity

❖ Speed Databasing does not address search techniques, such as selecting keywords, adding synonyms, or using operators
Community of Practice

❖ Open Science Framework project
https://osf.io/k6b4h/

❖ Instructions, templates, logos, sample materials

❖ Share experiences

❖ Ask questions

❖ Evolve the activity
Thank You!

❖ Questions? Feedback?

❖ If you try Speed Databasing, let us know how it goes or how you change the activity

❖ Join the CoP on the Open Science Framework https://osf.io/k6b4h/

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